

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 15, 2010
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: California Naturopathic Doctors Association

BILL NUMBER: SB 1246
AUTHOR: G. Negrete McLeod

BILL SUMMARY: Naturopathic Medicine

This bill would add licensed naturopathic doctors to the category of professionals who may perform clinical laboratory tests or examinations waived by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) of 1988, only if the results of the tests can be lawfully utilized within their practice, and would provide that a laboratory director includes a licensed naturopathic doctor, as specified, for purposes of waived examinations.

This bill would define a naturopathic assistant and specify technical support services and procedures that could be performed by a naturopathic assistant. The bill also would prohibit a naturopathic assistant from being employed for inpatient care in a licensed general acute care hospital.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would not result in a fiscal impact to the state because naturopathic doctors are not required to be licensed by the Department of Public Health (DPH). Additionally, the number of facilities registered by the DPH will not be impacted by this bill.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill because it would not result in additional state costs.

The author's office reports that naturopathic doctors' inability to perform CLIA waived tests can compromise patient safety by delaying necessary medical tests. Tests can be categorized as "waived" from regulatory oversight if they meet certain requirements established by the CLIA law. Additionally, the ability to permit naturopathic assistants to perform specified tests and technical support services would relieve the naturopathic doctors of this responsibility.

This bill would allow naturopathic assistants to perform certain medical procedures under the supervision of a naturopathic doctor. Among other procedures, this bill would authorize naturopathic assistants to administer medication only by intradermal, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections and perform skin tests and additional technical support services upon the specific authorization and supervision of a licensed naturopathic doctor. Additionally, this bill would authorize naturopathic assistants to perform venipuncture or skin puncture to withdraw blood upon specific authorization and under the supervision of a licensed naturopathic doctor after meeting existing educational and training requirements for medical assistants and would require a copy of any related certificates to be retained as a record by each employer of the assistant.

This bill also would authorize naturopathic assistants to perform additional technical support services under regulations and standards established by the Naturopathic Medicine Committee.

Analyst/Principal (0551) B. Nunes	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann L. Mangat	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL NUMBER

SB 1246

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						
Code/Department	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue	CO	PROP							Fund
Type	RV	98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	Code
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0098
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0098	Clinical Laboratory Improvement Fund								